

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**The Status of the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~cooperative~~ stent adapted to be implanted in a patient's body into an acutely angled side branch at a ~~junction of bifurcation~~ junction from a main vessel, duct or tract, the stent comprising: said cooperative stent having an acutely angled end adapted to reside against a portion of a separate main stent implanted in the main vessel, duct or tract bridging the said bifurcation junction, such that the cooperative stent when implanted fully covers an the inner wall surface of the said side branch at the said bifurcation junction, with negligible gaps, wherein the stent includes a visibility indicator including one or more markers or variable wall thickness.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~cooperative~~ stent of claim 1, wherein the acute angle of the said acutely angled end is approximately 45°.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~cooperative~~ stent of claim 1, wherein an the end of the cooperative stent opposite the said acutely angled end is at a different angle therefrom relative to a the longitudinal axis of the stent.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~cooperative~~-stent of claim 3, wherein ~~the said~~-different angle of the end of the ~~cooperative~~-stent opposite ~~the said~~-acutely angled end is approximately 90°.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~cooperative~~-stent of claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~-acutely angled end has a short side and a long side connected by a straight cut through the wall of ~~a the~~ ~~cooperative~~-stent.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~cooperative~~-stent of claim 5, wherein at least one of said short side and said long side includes the visibility indicator and wherein the visibility indicator is a ~~has an identifying~~-radiopaque parameter to enable viewing and properly orienting the ~~cooperative~~-stent during implant thereof in the side branch.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~cooperative~~-stent of claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the ~~cooperative~~-stent has a coating including a drug selected to hinder restenosis, for elution of ~~the said~~-drug from the ~~cooperative~~-stent when implanted in the side branch.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~cooperative~~-stent of claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~-acutely angled end of the ~~cooperative~~-stent is adapted to reside against the main stent at an opening along ~~the said~~-bridging portion thereof to allow a portion of fluid carried by the main vessel, duct or tract to flow relatively unobstructed through ~~the said~~-bifurcation junction into the side branch.

9. (Currently Amended) A stent adapted to be implanted in a side branch at a bifurcation from a main blood vessel in a patient's body, wherein the bifurcation from the main vessel is at other than a right angle, the said-stent comprising: a first open end and a second open end, wherein at least one of the first open end or the second open end having open ends, one of which is angled to correspond to match an the angulation of the side branch, whereby to afford substantially cover complete coverage of an the inner wall of the side branch at the said-bifurcation[[,]] when the stent is implanted, wherein the stent includes a visibility indicator including one or more markers or variable wall thickness.

10. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 9, wherein the at least one of the first open end or the second open end has an angle of said other than a right angle is about 45°.

11. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 10, wherein the other of the at least one of the first open end or the second open end of the stent is at a right angle to a the longitudinal axis of the stent.

12. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 9, wherein said other than a right angle matched by the angle of said one open end of the stent gives the stent has a short side and a long side connected together in a plane through a the wall of the stent at the at least one of the first open end or the second said one open end.

13. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 12, wherein at least one of the said-short side or the and said-long side includes the visibility indicator and wherein the visibility

indicator is a ~~has a viewable~~ radiopaque characteristic to facilitate proper orientation of the stent during implant thereof.

14. (Original) The stent of claim 9, including a drug-eluting surface coating on the stent to resist stenosis of the side branch when the stent is implanted therein.

15. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising a single straight tubular wall patterned with a plurality of interconnected struts having voids therebetween, and a pair of openings at opposite ends of the wall, wherein the said ends are skewed relative to one another, and wherein the stent includes a visibility indicator including one or more markers or variable wall thickness.

16. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 15, wherein at least one of the ends includes the visibility indicator and the visibility indicator is a skewed one of said ends has a fluoroscopically visible marker for properly orienting the stent during implantation.

17. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a single tube having a side and ~~with a multiplicity of through-holes in the its side;~~  
a first open end and a second open end, wherein at least one of the first open end or the second open end is t, and one of its two open ends skewed relative to the said side,  
wherein the stent is implantable into a side branch blood vessel of a patient's body,  
wherein the side branch blood vessel is whereby to enable said stent to be implanted in  
mating relation to the geometry of a side branch similarly skewed relative to a main

blood vessel at a bifurcation ~~thereof~~, and wherein the stent includes a visibility indicator including one or more markers or variable wall thickness.

18. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 17, wherein at least one of the first open end or the second open end includes the visibility indicator and the visibility indicator is ~~said one skewed end~~ is fluoroscopically identifiable to enable proper orientation of the stent during implantation in the side branch.

19. (Currently Amended) A stent adapted to be implanted in a side branch at a skewed bifurcation from a main blood vessel in a patient's body, in combination with a stent delivery system including a balloon catheter on which the stent is mounted for navigation through the main vessel and deployment of the stent in the side branch at the said bifurcation, the stent comprising a first open end ~~having one of its open ends~~ angled to ~~match~~ correspond to the skew of the bifurcation of the side branch, the stent being mounted on the balloon catheter with the first open end ~~its matching angled end~~ positioned proximally thereon, and wherein the stent includes a visibility indicator including one or more markers or variable wall thickness.

20. (Currently Amended) The combination claimed in claim 19, wherein at least one of the said stent or the ~~and said~~ balloon catheter has the visibility indicator and the visibility indicator is at least one fluoroscopically visible marker at the first open end ~~said matching angled end~~ of the mounted stent for properly orienting the stent during deployment in the side branch.

21. (Currently Amended) The combination claimed in claim 19, wherein the first open end has a shorter side and a longer side and wherein at least one of the said-stent or the and-said-balloon catheter has the visibility indicator and the visibility indicator is fluoroscopically identifiable markers at least one of the shorter side or the and-longer side sides of said-matching-angled-end-of-the-mounted-stent to facilitate rotation of the catheter and proper orientation of the stent for deployment in the side branch.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of implanting a stent in a side branch at a skewed bifurcation from a main blood vessel in a patient's body, the method comprising:

~~which comprises the steps of selecting a balloon catheter on which the stent is mounted with an open end of the stent[[,]] angled to match the side branch skew of the bifurcation, positioned proximally on the catheter~~ mounting the sent on a balloon catheter with a first open end of the stent positioned proximally on the catheter, wherein the first open end is angled to match the side branch skew of the bifurcation and wherein the stent includes a visibility indicator including one or more markers or variable wall thickness;

navigating the catheter through the main vessel and the side branch until the stent is positioned in the side branch at the bifurcation;

rotating the catheter to an extent necessary to orient the first said-angled-end of the stent to ~~for-substantially complete coverage of the~~ cover an inner wall of the side branch at the bifurcation; and

deploying the stent to engage the inner wall of the side branch ~~and thereby effect said coverage~~ by inflating the balloon of the catheter.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, including deflating the balloon and withdrawing the catheter from the patient's body after the stent is deployed.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a stent to be implanted in a side branch at or adjacent the origin of a skewed bifurcation from a main blood vessel in a patient's body, the method comprising:

~~which comprises the steps of providing~~ forming a single metal tube having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end is of predetermined length, diameter and sidewall thickness and having at least one of its open ends angled at about 90° relative to a the longitudinal axis of the tube, and wherein the second end is acutely angled to roughly correspond to an angle of the skewed bifurcation of the side branch and the main blood vessel and wherein the stent includes a visibility indicator including one or more markers or variable wall thickness; and, either before or after forming the other open end of the tube at an acute angle chosen to match the skew angle of the side branch bifurcation from the main vessel,

patterning a side wall of the tube with a plurality multiplicity of holes through its sidewall to enable the tube diameter to be expanded from its starting dimension to a deployment dimension suitable for implanting the stent in the side branch.